

Characteristics of ICU Patients Who Died Or Were Readmitted within Seven Days of Transfer

Patients who died within 7 days of transfer were retrospectively identified from the hospital admitting department information systems and their charts were reviewed. Patients undergoing cardiopulmonary resuscitation were defined as active treatment.

Admission Diagnosis	ICU Survivors	Number Readmitted (%)	Number Died on Ward Active Tx (%)
Coronary Art Bypass	778	5 (0.6)	2 (0.3)
Aorto-Iliac Surgery	364	14 (3.9)	2 (0.5)
Congest Heart Failure	255	5 (2.0)	1 (0.4)
Cardiac Arrest	225	8 (3.6)	3 (1.3)
Head Injuries	196	8 (4.1)	0
Septic Shock	145	12 (8.3)	2 (1.4)
Laparotomy	134	8 (6.0)	0
Aortic Valve Repair	125	2 (1.6)	0
Craniotomy	115	4 (3.5)	0
Other Cardiac Surgery	105	3 (2.9)	0
Upper GI Bleed	97	14 (14.4)	0
COPD	93	5 (5.4)	0
TCA Overdose	84	0 (0)	0
Postop Resp Failure	72	4 (5.6)	0
Other	2208	120 (5.4)	6 (0.3)
Total	5227	212 (4.1)	16 (0.3)

Readmission Diagnosis	N	Dead	Survived ICU	Alive 7 Days Post Transfer
Cardiac Arrest	30	13.5	17	15
Pneumonia	27	12.1	22	21
Other Resp. problem	21	9.4	21	21
Postop Resp Failure	21	9.4	17	14
Septic Shock	18	8.1	13	13
Congestive Heart Failure	17	7.6	15	14
Upper GI Bleed	16	7.2	10	10
COPD	10	4.5	9	8
Pulmonary Embolus	5	2.2	4	4
Other	58	26.0	47	46
Total	223	100	175	166

- 1) 4 1% of patients transferred from ICU required readmission within one week of transfer; 0.3% of patients receiving active treatment experienced a cardiac arrest and died on the ward within 7 days of transfer.
- 2) Patients admitted to ICU following thoracotomy (14.9%), upper GI bleeds (14.4%), septic shock (8.3%), radical neck dissections (8.2%) and pneumonia (7.4%) had the highest readmission rates.
- 3) Patients readmitted to ICU within 7 days of transfer to the ward had higher ICU mortality rates (21.5%) than patients initially admitted to ICU.
- 4) Cardiac arrest (13.5%), pneumonia (12.1%), post operative respiratory failure (9.4%) and septic shock (8.1%) were the most common readmission diagnoses.

Day after Discharge	Survived ICU Admission	Deceased in ICU	Total
0	15	5	20
1	55	7	62
2	32	6	38
3	22	8	30
4	16	9	25
5	10	4	14
6	9	3	12
7	14	5	19

Day	Number of Patients
0	1
1	1
2	6
3	4
4	1
5	1
6	2